

**Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Eastern District of Louisiana**

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

## **Bookkeeper Convicted Of Wire Fraud Sentenced To Probation for Three Years**

**NEW ORLEANS** – U.S. Attorney Peter G. Strasser announced that **LATANYA A. BRITTON**, age 41, a resident of LaPlace, Louisiana, was sentenced January 7, 2020 for Wire Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343. Judge Vitter sentenced Britton to a term of probation for three (3) years, the first six (6) months to be served as a period of home incarceration. In addition, Britton was ordered to pay full restitution to the victims. Lastly, Britton will need to complete fifty (50) hours of community service.

According to court records, on January 22, 2018, **BRITTON** was hired as a bookkeeper in the client accounting services department at Accounting Firm A. Accounting Firm A was located in New Orleans, Louisiana and provided client accounting services to local businesses and individuals. Client B, a restaurant located in the New Orleans French Quarter, was a small business client of Accounting Firm A. **BRITTON** became the bookkeeper for Client B and was entrusted with the daily accounting and bill paying for Client B's account. Accounting Firm A utilized a cloud-based accounting software called Restaurant 365 to manage the account for Client B. Restaurant 365 allowed **BRITTON** authorized access to Client B's bank account. **BRITTON's** position allowed her to issue checks to Client B's vendors that contained an electronic signature of the managing shareholder of Client B.

On August 16, 2018, **BRITTON** established an entity named Lagniappe Accounting Services, L.L.C. ("Lagniappe"). Navy Federal Credit Union ("NFCU") was a domestic financial banking institution headquartered in Vienna, Virginia. All check images received by NFCU either from a NFCU branch, ATM, e-deposit, or other channel, were transmitted to computer servers located in Vienna, Virginia. On August 24, 2018, **BRITTON** opened bank account No. \*\*\*\*\*2479 with NFCU under the name Lagniappe.

**BRITTON** devised and implemented a scheme to defraud Client B by embezzling approximately \$32,000 from Client B's bank account. **BRITTON** accessed Restaurant 365 software to delete approximately 31 check entries payable to Lagniappe that she fraudulently issued from Client B's account. **BRITTON** opened an account with NFCU in the name Lagniappe in order to deposit funds she embezzled from Client B. **BRITTON** used her NFCU Lagniappe account debit card to pay for personal expenses at retailers such as Bed Bath & Beyond, Dillard's, JCPenney's, Old Navy, DSW, and at various nail spas. It was further part of the scheme and artifice to defraud, and in an effort to conceal her conduct, that on December 30, 2018, **BRITTON** made false statements in an email to Client B's managing shareholder after he contacted **BRITTON** regarding a suspicious check written to Lagniappe. **BRITTON** was terminated from Accounting Firm A on January 3, 2019.

U.S. Attorney Peter G. Strasser praised the work of the United States Secret Service. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian M. Klebba, Supervisor of the Financial Crimes Unit.